

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

MAY 25, 1999

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at Canada's Wonderland

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only human

Local candidates speak out

Story and Photos
By Brad Dugard

It may not be the Stanley Cup, but to three local candidates, winning their riding in the June 3 provincial election will feel just as sweet.

However, before they can do that they need your support.

Each of the three mainstream parties has made education an important part of their election platforms and representatives of each party in separate area ridings expressed in interviews their interest in gaining the support of Conestoga students.

New Democratic Party

Ted Martin, 37, running in the Kitchener-Waterloo riding, has a dream that might be shared by many students. No tuition fees.

"Ideally, students wouldn't have to pay any tuition for their post-secondary education. I think the problem with the current government is that they look at education as being of personal benefit only, to help you get a job," he said. "But I think really it benefits all of society."

Martin said all of society benefits from a highly educated populace because it makes for a more effective country.

"The policy is to eliminate tuition within 10 years," he said.

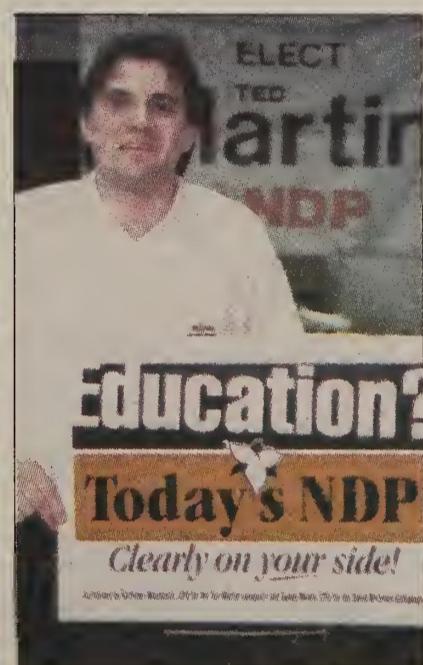
In the immediate future, Martin said, if elected the NDP would immediately lower tuition fees by



Incumbent Conservative candidate Wayne Wettlaufer at his campaign headquarters on King Street East.



Sean Strickland, the Liberal candidate in Kitchener-Waterloo, shows off his campaign sign at his riding office.



NDP candidate Ted Martin displays a sign showing their commitment to education.

10 per cent for both university and college students.

"University students will save an average of \$340 yearly. College students will save \$170," according to the NDP election platform, which also promises to invest \$180 million in post-secondary institutions.

Martin said the NDP would lower tuition rates and maintain the current economic boom the province is now experiencing.

"That isn't by cutting taxes," he said. "We know, for instance, that General Motors has come here and continues to build stuff here because we have a more educated population and because of our health-care system."

Martin said the Conservative government's tax cuts have done nothing to stimulate the economy.

"There is no correlation between the tax cuts in Ontario and the fact that we have 500,000 more jobs in

the province," he said.

There is a need to increase the number of people educated in the information technology fields in order to keep pace with demand and a NDP government would make that process easier, Martin said.

"We have to increase funding for those programs and we also have to decrease tuition (in) those programs," he said.

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College receives grant for post-grad program

By Charles Kuepfer

Conestoga College formally received a grant of \$35,000 at the annual Donor Recognition Breakfast on May 13 at the Walper Terrace Hotel in Kitchener.

The grant was presented to Conestoga College President John Tibbits by Lindsay Somerville, vice-president of the Midwestern and Northern Ontario region Canada Trust.

The grant will go towards development of a post-graduate marketing and business program that will address the current shortage of employees in the local community's technology sector.

"An economically healthy community is always healthy in all other aspects," said Tibbits.

The annual breakfast acknowledges company and community representatives who have made

donations to the college.

Tibbits extended a thank you to the approximately 100 donors in attendance.

"(We've received) tremendous support from people in this room," he said. "If it was not for you, we would not be where we are."

The breakfast included a presentation by Tibbits that outlined the college's achievements during the past year, and also revealed future directions for Conestoga.

Tibbits said the college placed first in five of nine Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in a recent province-wide survey. The college was first in service to students, graduate satisfaction, facilities and resources, job placement ratio and tied for first in student satisfaction.

The KPI opinion surveys include all 25 of Ontario's public colleges.

see College ... Page 2

The grass isn't always greener

By Brian Smiley

Springtime is usually the time for mosquitoes to come out and bug people. This spring it's a different type of bug causing concern.

Everywhere you look there are patchy brown grass spots, where the grass doesn't want to grow.

Conestoga College groundskeeper Peter Higgins said European Schaeffer bugs (also called white grubs) are feasting on the roots of the grass, causing the patches seen all over the area.

Combined with this year's drought, it is shaping up to be a terrible year for grass.

However, Higgins and co-worker Peter Charlton aren't ready to admit defeat.

"We're trying to rejuvenate pieces of the lawn," Higgins said.

The two-man crew first seeded the lawn, then aerated it. After placing the seed on the ground the aerating, which punches holes in the ground, allows oxygen to get to the root of the grass.

After that they'll use a roller to push everything down to the bottom of the ground and hopefully, when it rains, the grass will grow, Higgins said.

"Hopefully it will look better for convocation."

Higgins and his crew have just under a month before the graduation, which will allow the grass to be cut a couple of times and

see Grass ... Page 2

Provincial election '99

Candidates vie for college students' vote

*continued from page one***Liberals**

Scan Strickland, the Liberal candidate for the riding of Kitchener-Waterloo, thinks post-secondary education is heading towards an American-style privately run system.

"Post-secondary education has a really big challenge ahead of it. The increases in tuition fees have made education less accessible for a lot of (people)," he said.

The Liberal campaign document, titled the 20/20 plan, calls for a 10 per cent lowering of tuition, followed by an overhaul of the Ontario Student Assistance Plan.

"(We would) look at making OSAP more reflective of students' needs," he said. "One of the things we would do is to increase the

amount of money a student could make over the course of the year."

Strickland said he believes the Liberal party offers balance, which is missing from both the NDP's and the Conservative's platforms.

"I think the difference between all three parties is one of platform but also one of philosophy. Liberals believe we can do things in partnership. We can broker the needs of our communities with the private sector and with labour," he said.

Progressive Conservatives

Wayne Wettlaufer, the incumbent candidate in the riding of Kitchener Centre, said the province has undergone a dose of tough medicine but now that the province is on better financial footing growth can resume.

"The previous government was in such a financial state that they actually considered declaring bankruptcy. It would have been disastrous," he said.

The recently released Ontario budget calls for a \$742-million injection for post-secondary education capital expenses.

"We have said we would increase all of education (spending) by 20 per cent, but, we have said we would incorporate that with a growth plan for the province of Ontario to ensure that the economy continues to grow, continues to provide jobs, which will, in turn, continue to increase the revenues created in the province," said Wettlaufer.

Government figures indicate that 500,000 new jobs have been created in the province

in the last five years and Wettlaufer said the Conservatives plan on creating 825,000 more in the first five years of the new millennium.

He said increasing taxes places a drag on the economy so by lowering taxes the Conservatives increased economic activity in the province.

"We are doing what we said we would do. The economy will boom. We already are growing at a better rate than any other jurisdiction in Canada. We are growing at a better rate than any competing jurisdiction in North America," he said.

Wettlaufer is confident if re-elected the Conservatives can continue this trend.

"There will be jobs out there for Conestoga students," he said.

College 'internationalizing'; Tibbits

continued from page one

Tibbits also said student applications are up six per cent.

"People should be proud that we have the best college in Ontario."

The college, he said, also has excellent facilities.

"We now have the best machining facilities in North America," he said of the \$3 million centre in Guelph.

There are plans for expansion and upgrading of these facilities as well.

And there are plans for expansion at the Doon campus in the areas of machining, electronics and robotics to keep up with the rapidly changing technology.

A police and fire training centre is

also planned for the college. Tibbits said that the Waterloo campus is currently being turned into an Information and Technology Centre, which will begin offering courses in September.

There will be between 10 and 24 post-diploma programs operating at the campus.

At the breakfast Tibbits also touched on the college's international flavour.

This summer there are 200 students from 28 countries studying English at Conestoga, he said, adding the college is "internationalizing", and has partnerships with Wilfrid Laurier and Waterloo universities.

More than 100 international students will be attending Conestoga in the fall.



John Tibbits spoke at the annual Donor Recognition Breakfast on May 13. (Photo by Charles Kuepfer)

Grass has a month to heal before convocation

continued from page one

sprayed with weed killer to get rid of the undesirable vegetation.

The two groundskeepers put in regular 40-hour weeks around the college trying to keep it looking as groomed as possible. They work year-round from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and receive some help in the summer from a part-time student who is hired.

Altogether they take care of the college's grounds from the south of the recreation centre to the boundaries by the highway, which is about 25 acres of grass in the summer to look after. Recreation centre employees look after their own grounds, which makes Higgins happy.

"I don't have to worry about sports turf injury," he said.

A touch of paint



Shaun Kemple takes a break from touching up the sewage pipe's paint job to give a paint-brush salute. Kemple, 20, will be entering his final year of construction engineering at Conestoga in the fall. He is working in the maintenance department at Conestoga for a summer job.

(Photo by Angela Clayfield)



Rich Derkach, of A&E Enterprises, watches as an interior wall at the Waterloo campus is knocked down. Derkach is part of a demolition and salvage crew that will save all scrap metal, and take the rest to the dump.

(Photo by Charles Kuepfer)

Waterloo campus gets a facelift

By Charles Kuepfer

Talk about raising the roof. Even part of the roof will come off during renovations at Conestoga College's Waterloo campus that began May 10. The changes are being made to turn the campus into an Information Technology Centre.

Dave Putt, director of physical resources for the college, said there is no expansion of the existing facility being done, only restructuring.

The renovations are to be completed by Aug. 15.

Versteeg Construction is on the job, being chosen after submitting the lowest bid for the contract, said Putt.

He said 40,000 sq. feet of the 60,000 sq. foot facility is being renovated, which includes putting in new washrooms, a new kitchen and a new serving area. According to Putt, there will be about 13 computer rooms when the renovations are complete.

"It is a fairly expensive reconstruction," said Putt. "We don't normally do this."

The campus still has a few courses running and three computer rooms are still in operation. There are also noise and dust barriers set up to keep the campus operating as normal as possible.

Putt said things are going fairly well as far as meeting the Aug. 15 deadline.

"They're going like hell," said Putt of Versteeg's progress, noting that they need to in order to meet the deadline.

A potential problem could be the delivery of the large ventilation systems to be put on the roof.

The renovations are being done with energy conservation in mind and once the restructuring is complete the Waterloo campus will operate at a lower cost.

This will be in part because of new ballasts for the lighting, something that Putt said was done at the Doon campus five or six years ago.

Cheating happens...

Educators are still frustrated by cheating

When students cheat, whether it be on final exams or on a project, it not only looks bad on them, but it causes feelings of frustration for teachers who work hard to mold their students into a competent part of the work force. How teachers deal with reversing the problem is up to each individual.

"When a student cheats in my class I feel disappointed and violated," said Peter Findlay, head of the woodworking department at Conestoga College. "If they aren't successful in the program then they won't be successful in life."

Findlay said he feels teachers should administer discipline for cheaters, but then action should be taken to modify this negative behaviour.

"How students cheat or what they cheat on is not a concern to me," said Findlay. "I am concerned with correcting the behaviour."

This is exactly why he thinks the college should introduce a seminar, maybe a workshop, on how teachers deal with the issue of cheating and to help students who are caught to correct their behaviour.

"I want to do what is in the best interest of the students," said Findlay. "I am not there just to zap them."

The issue is significant to Findlay because annually he said he finds three or four cases of students tracing or otherwise cheating on drafting assignments.

"I would hope they would learn from a policy and turn around," he said.

Findlay said he believes teachers have the opportunity to say to students they need to change and to provide them with a way to

get on the right track.

"The question is how do we create an attitude where they (the students) take a responsibility for themselves," he said.

Bob Bamford, head of academic support, said cheating is a fairly major topic examined by all teachers.

"When a person cheats they lose a part of themselves and later on in life it becomes a serious problem," he said.

Cheating

By Elizabeth Sackrider

Student services and strategies all offer help for the problem.

"There will be no need to cheat if they follow the guidelines suggested."

Bamford suggests teachers should start to record the number of cheaters they find, so an accurate percentage can be tabulated.

"I don't think we really know what teachers know about the issue," he said. "We don't know this (the number of cheaters), so we should find out and then look at solutions."

As for Conestoga College President John Tibbits, he said he wasn't sure how big the issue of cheating was in the college.

"The issue hasn't been raised by a lot of people," he said. ♦

...but why does it?

Laziness and lack of planning big part

Why do students cheat on their work? Is it a lack of time or insufficient energy? Or could it be anxiety that spurs a student to cheat?

One woodworking student, who didn't want to be identified,

about my school work which had to be done," he said.

"Most of the cheaters I find haven't planned, they haven't done the work," said Peter Findlay, faculty of woodworking. "A majority of my students do take time to prepare, however."

The small percentage of students who do cheat become really obvious, said Findlay, because almost all of his students do their work honestly.

"Any program dealing with drafting is a concern to us," he said. "Any program where there are computers it is easy to claim another student's work."

Another reason students cheat is a genuine anxiety over the pressure of being tested, said Bob Bamford, head of academic support.

"Someone who is deliberately cheating is different than someone who is caught up in anxiety," he said.

Test anxiety can be brought to the attention of the counsellors at student services who will try to provide relief from the stress.

Pamphlets offering information on the subject are available outside the student services office.

Bamford said the college should be looking at ways to make the distinctions between genuine test anxiety and hardcore cheaters.

"Part of education is to learn the program material and the other is to develop a professional attitude with adult learners, who don't cheat and operate ethically," he said. ♦

Kitchener Transit summer changes may stay



By Chadwick Severn

Kitchener Transit will be making 16 changes this summer to bus routes that Conestoga College students use throughout Kitchener-Waterloo.

In addition to the regular seasonal reductions on 11 bus routes across the system, the transit company will restart the bus services to SportsWorld and St. Jacobs.

Beginning June 21, buses will begin running on the No. 20 SportsWorld route, allowing students, shoppers and other transit riders to reach the massive retail development at the south end of Kitchener. This year, the route has been extended into the evening hours on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays as a result of the requests received by the company for additional service.

"(Those periods were chosen) to keep the cost down," said Sandy Roberts, the supervisor of marketing and administration of Kitchener Transit. "Those are the busier times for the area in general."

The SportsWorld area has seen explosive development growth in the past year. Large retail shops known as big box stores have infiltrated the area once known only for its water and sports park.

The cost of expanding the service into the evening three nights a week will total \$4,940 for the summer, according to city documents. The city saved more than that when it reduced evening service on other routes last year, although it has put off the introduction of these new routes until the summer.

"We sort of hoped to use those savings to do this," said Roberts.

The map at left shows the routes that have been changed or added for the summer. The large numbers refer to the routes: No. 3 Idlewood, No. 8 Fairview via East, No. 17 Heritage Park and No. 20 SportsWorld. Service has been removed from Ottawa Street between Franklin and Weber streets due to the closure of the Ottawa Street bridge over Highway 86. Service has been added to the SportsWorld area and Keewatin Avenue.

(Illustration by Chadwick Severn)

Corrections

- In the May 17, 1999 issue, the photo on page 7 was horizontally flipped, reversing the order of people from left to right.

- Also in the May 17, 1999 issue, the photo on page 8 should have had the caption "Robert Santos, a maintenance worker for the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre, prepares to rototill outside the building at Doon Campus."

Spoke regrets the errors.

Election rhetoric creates a stench

It is once again that magical time. The leaves are out, flowers are blooming and the farmers are spreading God's wondrous odorous fertilizer – and so are the politicians.

That's right, it's another spring election in Ontario.

This can be a confusing time for the average voter, with the pollen and the political rhetoric drifting through the air. Who can you trust? Who deserves your vote? Well, here are some reminders from Ontario's recent history that might help in your decision.

These headlines, used as examples, were published before Mike Harris and the Conservatives took office in June 1995:

1. Nurses and doctors never support a political party once it is in power. "Showdown coming over hospital cash crisis" (Toronto Star); "Gut-wrenching conditions depicted in health-care study" (Globe and Mail); "Cutbacks in government funding will rock hospitals, officials say" (Globe and Mail); "Our health care sick? Ontario Federation of Labour finds system is stressed" (Toronto Sun.) Both the Liberals and the New Democrats were just as capable as the Conservatives at alienating Ontario's health-care workers.

2. Welfare rates are never high enough to satisfy those on, or those supporting, government assistance. Under the leadership of both Bob Rae and David Peterson, welfare advocates told horror stories about people having to deal with a beleaguered system.



Brad Dugard

"Some parents forced to give up kids, welfare probe told" (Star); "Queen's Park ignores hunger, activists say" (Globe); "Needy desperate for aid boost now Metro officials say" (Star.)

3. The Liberal and New Democrats' favourite phrase these days, "tax cuts for the rich," is incredibly misleading. The Harris Tories have cut taxes in the province 99 times since taking power. If all those tax cuts had benefitted only the rich, then Ontario had some seriously over-taxed rich people. Tax cuts benefit everyone by stimulating people's compulsion to buy things. When people buy more things the economy grows and we all reap the rewards.

4. Education needs reform. Most animals on this world hate change. Disturb a bird's nest and it may never return. Screw with a river and the fish disappear. Reform the education system and teachers dust off the well-used protest signs stored in the back of the janitor's closet. Education, by its very nature, needs constant change and reform and teachers, of all people, ought to know this. Maintaining efficient schools is a key for success in this fast-paced world. School employees who cannot see this must be living in some union-inspired dreamland.

Making the final decision on whom to vote for isn't always easy, but it doesn't have to be a nail-biting experience either.

When deciding, look for the same qualities in a political leader that you would look for in any other role model.

. Then, vote with your head and try to avoid the stench of the political rhetoric.

Kids, things run much smoother this time of year, don't they?



NHL referees only human

The sound of Toronto Maple Leaf fans everywhere can be heard (just translate through wild sobbing).

Once again, part-time Leaf hater and full-time referee Kerry Fraser has wronged their beloved team and Leaf fans all over are screaming bloody murder.

On May 11, Fraser allowed a Pittsburgh Penguins' goal to stand, which on every replay that was seen, didn't seem to cross the goal line.

Fraser's explanation was that he thought it was a goal and since there were no replays proving otherwise, the goal would be allowed.

The Penguins eventually won the game, by a goal, and took a 2-1 series lead. Although this didn't affect the outcome of the series,



Brian Smiley

which the Leafs won in six games, it's still worth taking a look at.

Referees have long been a source of abuse, from coaches, players and parents all over. The trend seems to be that if a team loses a game, the officials somehow pre-ordained the outcome.

However, let's get real here. Most of the time these people are professionals who get paid a great deal of money to make decisions in fast and intense situations. For them to err is human.

Leaf fans everywhere can argue until they're blue in the face that Fraser has a personal vendetta against them, since it was Fraser who made the famous no-call on a high stick a few years back that would have sent the Leafs to the Stanley Cup finals. But Fraser was in both of these situations because he is a professional, with a lot of experience.

Spectators and fans don't necessarily leave their angry comments for professionals.

A May 9 article in the Toronto Star about minor hockey referees states that of the 248 officials who began the Greater Toronto Hockey League year, under 200 remain. Why is that? Assaults, threats and insults. Fans everywhere believe it to be their right to verbally and physically assault any official who they believe tamper with the outcome of their children's game.

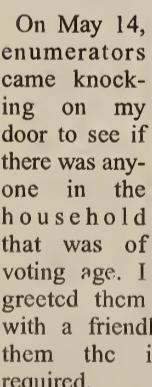
Let's wake up, though. These officials pretty much volunteer their time (they do get paid minimally), to stay involved in the game somehow.

For anyone to believe these people are more than human is preposterous. We're all human and make mistakes. No one is perfect and we can't always get everything right.

If we are going to demand hockey referees to be perfect, we should all start in the same place.

Demand of others, as you would demand of yourself.

Voters should make informed decisions



Linda Wright

On May 14, enumerators came knocking on my door to see if there was anyone in the household that was of voting age. I greeted them with a friendly hello and gave them the information they required.

After the information gatherers had my name, I asked how they were doing. They conveyed that I was very nice compared to others.

They explained they had to put up with all kinds of abuse including having doors slammed in their faces.

Why is this happening in Canada? The enumerators are just trying to make sure everyone who can vote gets their democratic right.

Everyone is always complaining about the government, but why not take a stand and vote. You do have a say, after all, that's what democracy is all about.

The constitution states: "Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a

legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein."

Do we as Canadians take our right to vote so lightly that we are willing to just throw it away? If that were true, should we just leave it up to everyone else to decide for us? We will never get the government we want if no one votes. Our government would then resemble China's where someone would dictate our rights to us.

The politicians prefer to pound the nicer pavements and don't come into lower-class neighbourhoods because they can't be both-

ered hearing about low-income problems. If the politicians made their way to the other side of the fence, they may win a few more votes. Is it then ignorance on both sides?

There are three theories on voting. The first one is an early model called supermarket voting. This one involves picking from items on the ballot shelf. The second is social group voting where everyone is divided into groups such as ethnic, cultural, education and employment. Religion plays less of a role. Also, the differences between rural and urban are minimal. The third is attitudinal vot-

ing, which means bringing in strong party identification. The second and third theories are the most common reasons people vote one way or another.

Whether it's ignorance on one side or the other, we shouldn't just keep slamming the door.

As Canadians, we need to take our right to vote seriously through educating ourselves and getting involved in elections. This would allow Canadians to put the power into their own hands. Instead of just throwing our vote away we can try to make an informed decision based on education instead of ignorance.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

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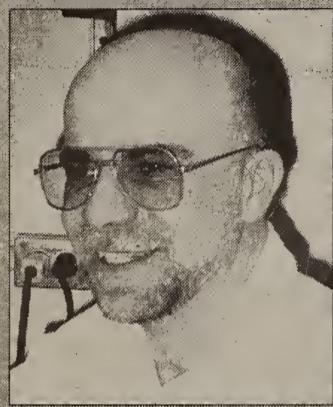
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Roberto Romero, electronics technology and computer systems graduate



Robin Wilson, third-year electronics engineering technology student



Carla Donnell, second-year broadcasting student



Emilie Friedrich, first-semester nursing student



Kris Bitten, first-year general business student

Campus question

NATO bombing of Chinese Embassy criticized by students

Photos and story

by Eileen Diniz

A NATO air raid struck the Chinese embassy in Belgrade May 7, killing three people.

The apparent accidental incident happened only hours after the alliance hit a populated area in another Yugoslavia city with cluster bombs, killing 15.

Despite an apology from U.S. President Bill Clinton and NATO's explanation that the attack was an accident, the Chinese have condemned the attack and are refusing to accept it was an accident. China did this at a Security Council meeting at the United Nations, which was called at their request.

Ambassador Quin Huasun said the bombing by NATO was a barbarian act and a violation of the UN charter. He also said China would be considering further action.

The bombing has also complicated the emerging peace process in Yugoslavia. China is blocking any UN Security Council discussion of a peace plan for Kosovo until NATO stops their air strikes. China's co-operation, however, is essential for the passage of a Security Council resolution because the country holds veto power at the UN.

Students at Conestoga College were asked what they thought about the bombing and if they believe it was actually an accident.

"I don't think the UN should have the power to go over there and do that. They should be able to get their target."

Kris Bitten
First-year general business student

The majority of students agreed that it was another terrible mistake on NATO's part and it definitely should not have happened.

"I don't think (NATO) should have the power to go over there and do that. They should be able to get their target," said Kris Bitten a first-year general business student.

Robin Wilson, a third-year electronics engineering

technology student, said NATO blew it this time, considering all the other problems they've had.

"It is too many mistakes, taking in what they call collateral damage, which is actually just a nice term for knocking off a bunch of people."

A 1999 graduate of electronics technology and computer systems, Roberto Romero, said he's upset because he isn't sure whether it was a mistake and so many more countries are now getting involved.

"They are starting to bring more countries into the whole conflict, when it started with just Kosovo, Yugoslavia and Albania."

Emilie Friedrich, a semester-one nursing student, said she felt the attack should have been avoided.

"It was a stupid mistake on NATO's part. It might have been an accident but it should not have happened with all the sophisticated military-type equipment they have."

Second-year broadcasting student Carla Donnell said she didn't know too much about the bombing but she read about it and said NATO seems to be making a lot of so-called accidents lately.

"It probably was an accident and NATO is like, oops, well, it's war."

Bitten said he didn't think NATO did it on purpose, that the bomb just probably went astray.

"I do feel sorry for the Chinese and I am totally for a public apology by the president."

Donnell added that she was surprised when she heard about the attack. She said it was definitely going to have a serious aftermath.

"Obviously it's going to have a major effect on how China feels regarding the whole bombing campaign."

Wilson agreed with Donnell and said there may be the issue of whether or not it was an accident but that is irrelevant.

"The bottom line is they better make amends for this fast and it better be good."

He also said it is not something they can sweep under the rug and they better be prepared for a payback.

"The Chinese want an official apology and some compensation and I think it better be forthcoming. China's already pulled some of their diplomatic relations."



Jacqueline, 10 and Tanisha, 6, show off mom's (Aneita Brown's) diploma. Brown graduated from the early childhood education program (ECE) in 1995.

(Photo by Linda Wright)

ECE graduate hopes Record feature story will inspire parents

Mother of 10 provides support at Waterloo campus day care

By Linda Wright

Getting called into work on your day off wouldn't exactly please a whole lot of people.

But for Aneita Brown, an early childhood education graduate, it makes her day.

Currently, Brown works at the Waterloo campus day care along side co-op students. She provides feedback, offers guidance and supports the students through their work experience.

On May 8, The Record featured a Mother's Day story on Brown called "Aneita's pride". She said she wanted to show people in her neighbourhood that they could accomplish something, too.

"I'm not doing this to big myself up," she said. Instead, she hopes the article will inspire a lot of parents.

"I phoned (Record reporter) Brian Caldwell to thank him," said Brown. "It was very well done."

Brown has raised 10 children on her own, while attending Conestoga College full-time, and graduating in 1995. Staff at the Early Childhood Education (ECE) building at the Doon campus remember her well.

Shelley Schenk, manager of childcare centres, said Brown was a hardworking and dedicated student. She also was committed to children at the

day care as well as her own. "Her love for children is apparent and genuine," said Schenk.

"Shelley marked my first green curriculum form," said Brown, holding up the form in her hand, while shaking her head. "I got 2f1 out of 10." Brown keeps the paper as a reminder that she will never give up. Schenk gave her the opportunity to do it over again. And went over it with Brown step by step.

Brown says that college was a wonderful experience and without the support of teachers she wouldn't have made it.

She recalls her first teacher, Bonny Osborn, who had a way of inspiring her. Osborn, when she was on holidays, would write letters to Brown. She would look forward to these letters and write her back. This was her teacher's way of helping Brown with her writing skills.

She also succeeded in the course with the help of Marion Mainland, a special needs counsellor. "If you want to do the work, they're willing to help you through it," she said.

To other single mothers Brown says, put your children first. Be a good role model for them, and practise what you preach. "God gives children to parents and you have to care for them. You just can't sit down and play dead," she said.

Her philosophy is that as long as you have your health and strength you should work.

Brown will always remember Conestoga College fondly.

"Conestoga did everything for me. They took me in, they educated me and they me a job."

Students design fire warning system

By Wayne Collins

Three students in Conestoga College's telecommunications program have designed an electronic gadget that may soon help save lives.

Three third-year students of the program, Paul Corbeil, Daniel Stachowski and Tim Sommerfeld, have just completed a project for the Kitchener fire department that could help firefighters get to a burning building faster. This translates into saving lives, says John Coish of the fire department and Frank Kuschmierz, a systems specialist for 911.

Coish and Kuschmierz visited the students in the college's telecom workshop on May 4 to check on their progress and both said they were impressed with the project so far.

Initially, the fire department had approached the telecom program with the idea of an experimental panel-mounted device that would send a signal directly to the fire department, instead of them having to wait for a telephone call.

Essentially, the panel, which would be installed in residential or commercial buildings, would be connected to a smoke detector. When the smoke detector goes off, a signal would then be sent to a two-way radio transmitter at the



John Coish (left) of the KFD and Frank Kuschmierz (systems specialist for 911) visited the telecom lab on May 4 to inspect the new fire panel they plan to test.

(Photo by Wayne Collins)

fire department and fire trucks would be dispatched.

Bob Coons, co-ordinator of the college's telecommunications program, says the new panel is an excellent idea.

"It cuts many minutes off the response time."

The fire department supplied the commercially-made panels to the students who were still working on some system details May 4.

All of (these) different panels

have different protocols, says Coons, so, (you) have to find a way to make the system work with everybody's different kinds of equipment.

"It's pretty complicated."

The students say some basic decisions had to be made for the project's viability, including such things as "dedicated lines" and costs.

Normally, each panel will dial a telephone and call in an alarm.

This is called a dedicated line and many businesses and industrial buildings already have them.

Coons says telephones, however, are pretty unreliable and when (it's) got the phone line, no one can use the phone during an emergency. Dedicated lines are also expensive to keep and they mean an extra phone bill every month.

The students, meanwhile, have picked a radio frequency they can use and have a clear channel, so

only the fire department is on there. Because there's no phone lines used, there's no extra cost involved.

Coons says the panel's upfront costs will be in the low hundreds of dollars but insists it will be a fairly economical solution over monthly phone bills.

The three students say they're happy with the results of the experiment so far and are anxious to see it in action.

Usually, the official time allocated for third-year telecom projects is three hours per week, but Coons says these students have logged in many more than that to perfect the device.

Although the panel is not patentable, the students are expecting a contract as a result of their efforts.

"The special thing about that (project) is everybody can understand it," says Coons. "It's got an immediate application."

Coons explains that the program's past projects may appear somewhat abstract to "regular" people, but the usefulness of this project is more obvious to the casual observer.

"We're on the bleeding edge of technology," he says.

Currently, the Kitchener Fire Department is testing the device and the results should be in soon.

Canada's Wonderland open for 19th season

By Eileen Diniz

Paramount Canada's Wonderland, Canada's premier theme park, is now open for its 19th season.

The park is home to 11 thrill roller coasters and features eight themed areas and more than 180 attractions, including five new ones for '99.

New attractions include The Fly, Dino Island 2 3-D Escape From Dino Island, The Supersoaker, The Plunge, and Hollywood Animal Actors: Lights, Camera, Animals!

The Fly is a ride on the wild side. The four-seater coaster takes you on a fast track with a 50-foot drop, hairpin turns, tight curves and terrifying speed bumps.

"The Fly is a very deceiving ride. It looks like something built for kids," said Dave Cunningham a season pass owner.

Dino Island is a 3-D simulation ride located in the digital, surround sound Paramount Action F/X Theatre (Days of Thunder). It takes the riders on a high-speed dinosaur chase, involving moving seats, breathtaking footage and the ultimate 3-D effects.

"I thought this was a good ride with amazing 3-D effects," said Cunningham.

The Supersoaker and The Plunge were added to the eight hectare (20-acre) water park, Splashworks.

The Supersoaker involves a four-person raft that is plunged into complete darkness and travels at lightening speed. The riders are sent on a spiraling descent and propelled around exciting back-to-back 180 degrees twists and turns.

The Plunge allows riders to experience the wet free-fall plunges and the triple drop straight slide at an incredible speed.

Hollywood Animal Actors: Lights, Camera, Animals! features exotic and

domestic animal actors, including an African lion, Bengal tiger and a Jack Russell terrier. It provides an inside look into how trainers prepare animals for movie and TV performances.

"I liked the animals, especially the Jack Russell terrier," said Cunningham. "They were all extremely smart and it was interesting finding out how they are trained."

ing lines of approximately one hour or more.

"My favourite coaster is the Top Gun because of the speed and it is more thrilling riding an inverted coaster," said Cunningham.

In addition to the roller coasters, visitors can also enjoy 25 thrill rides, including the Drop Zone Stunt Tower, the Jet Scream and

ride I've been on so far."

Jet Scream adds a gravity-defying thrill to a swinging jet. This 360-degree looping jet takes you 10 storeys high.

The Xtreme Flyer elevates three people at one time to a height of 150 ft. When the riders pull their own rip cords which initiates a 15-storey free-fall, at 100km/h, into a pendulum plunge just six feet off the ground. The forward motion allows the rider to experience a brief weightlessness about 100 feet in the air. There is an extra charge of \$16.85 to take the plunge.

"I haven't had the guts to try this one yet but I think later in the summer me and my girlfriend might do it," said Cunningham.

A regular Pay-One Price Passport to the park is \$39.95 plus taxes. Passports for children three to six years of age and adults 60 and over are \$19.95 plus taxes. These prices provide access to all regular shows, rides and the water park. It excludes parking, food, merchandise, games, the Kingswood Music Theatre and special attractions like the Xtreme Flyer.

An individual season pass is available at the front gate for \$84.95 plus taxes. A family of four season pass is also available for \$264.95 plus taxes and additional family members can be added for \$66.95 plus taxes. The season pass holder has the same restrictions as regular passport holders.

But season pass members also receive bonus coupons and discounts on merchandise.

Those who process their 1999 season's pass by May 30 will be automatically entered to win a trip for four to Barbados.

For more information call Paramount Canada's Wonderland at 1-905-832-7000.



Top Gun, Canada's only inverted looping jet coaster, is themed to the hit Paramount movie of the same name.

(Photo by Eileen Diniz)

This year is also a hot year for the Top Gun, Canada's only inverted looping coaster; The Vortex, a suspended coaster; SkyRider, a stand-up looping coaster; The Bat, a backwards and forwards looping coaster; The Dragon Flyer, a double-looping steel coaster with a corkscrew; The Canadian Minebuster, the largest wooden coaster in the park; and The Wild Beast, a wildcat wooden coaster. They all had wait-

the Xtreme Flyer.

The Drop Zone is Canada's largest fast-fall thrill ride at 23 storeys high. It is a freestanding tower with open cockpit seats that drop at a speed of 100km/h. Five cars drop at a speed of 488cm per second with a 230-ft drop.

"I like how high the ride is. You can see either all over the park or out over the highway," said Cunningham. "It is the scariest



Monty Davidson, field service representative for the Workers Health and Safety Centre, uses information to help protect employees on the job.
(Photo By Lesley Turnbull)

Students not aware of safety rights

By Lesley Turnbull

Nicole works at a fast-food restaurant in her hometown. Two years ago she dumped fries into hot oil to cook and the oil splashed onto her left arm. She received third-degree burns. It took 14 months of skin grafts to get her arm to heal.

Since then she claims to have learned that there are ways to protect herself in the workplace. Her story appears in the Young Workers Awareness Program (YWAP) magazine as well as on its Web site.

According to the Ontario Federation of Labour, 25 young workers are injured daily on the job in Ontario and there are more than 8,000 injuries a year. In 1997, 12 young workers died in Ontario workplaces.

With summer approaching, students are looking for part-time or full-time jobs and according to Monty Davidson, field service representative for the Workers Health and Safety Centre, students should know their rights.

"It's important that students know their rights because statistics show the majority of accidents caused in the workplace (are by workers who) range in age from 15 to 25," said Davidson.

He said most students aren't aware of their three rights.

The YWAP, which is now taught in high schools across Ontario, teaches these rights under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Your first right is the right to know. The employer must inform you of any known hazards in the workplace and provide training so you can work safely. The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is an important part of your right to know.

WHMIS informs employers and employees of the hazards of using certain materials.

WHMIS regulation has three parts.

First is the label that tells you what class a hazardous product is in and how to safely work with it.

Second is a material safety data sheet that gives you more detailed information about how to work safely with hazardous chemicals.

And third is a training program that teaches you how to read and understand the labels and material safety data sheets.

Your second right is the right to participate in health and safety decision-making in the workplace through a Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) or a worker Health and Safety Representative.

Workplaces with 20 or more regularly employed workers must have a JHSC made up of management and employees. The main purpose of a JHSC is to make sure that all health and safety concerns are

brought into the open until they're resolved.

In workplaces where there are between six and 19 regularly employed workers, a JHSC is not usually required under the Act. Instead, a health and safety representative is required. This representative is chosen by the workers.

Your third right is the right to refuse unsafe work. According to the YWAP, if unsafe conditions or health and safety concerns cannot be solved by talking to your supervisor, there are steps you can take to refuse work under the act.

If you believe work is unsafe, either for you or for a co-worker, or there are reasonable grounds for you to believe the work is unsafe, you must follow six steps according to the act.

The first step is to report to your supervisor that you're refusing to work and state why you believe the situation is unsafe.

Second, an investigation must be conducted by you, your supervisor, and either a JHSC member or worker representative.

Third, you must return to work if the problem is resolved.

Fourth, if the problem is not resolved, a governmental health and safety inspector has to be called.

Fifth, your supervisor may assign you reasonable alternative work.

Sixth, the inspector must investigate and give his or her decision to the problem.

The Young Worker Awareness Program says that if the right steps have been followed your boss cannot punish you for refusing to do unsafe work.

However, if a work refusal is made in bad faith or if you keep refusing to do a job after an inspector says the work is safe, the employer can punish you.

According to the YWAP, these three rights are the minimum requirements to protect everyone from health and safety hazards on the job. More information on worker safety is available in the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

In cases of injury or illness, the YWAP states that you must get first-aid treatment right away; tell your supervisor about any injury, illness or condition that you believe happened because of work; choose your own doctor and fill out and return all Worker Compensation Board forms right away, which are available from your supervisor.

The Young Worker Awareness Program began in the 1980s to inform students of their rights in the workplace. Today they reach 30,000 high school students annually.

"The bottom line is if you have the information you can protect yourself," said Dane Richards, president of the K-W local 296 United Steelworkers Union of America.

College doctors not available during summer

Only five to 10 students visit Doon campus health office in summer, says co-ordinator

By Lesley Turnbull

The doctors' last day was Thursday, May 6. Dr. Jodie Wang and Dr. Anne-Marie Mingard will not be available for the summer months at the college.

"The numbers are far decreased in the summer (compared to the winter)," said Kim Radigan, health and safety co-ordinator.

She said about five to 10 students come into the health office during the summer.

In the fall and winter the doctors are available two to three afternoons per week.

According to Radigan, this schedule will probably be changed for the fall.

"We are going to try to have them available in the morning," Radigan said, adding it would make it more convenient for students who can't wait until the afternoon for an appointment.

For the months of May and June, Trish Weiler, the college's nurse, is available. She won't be in the office in July and August.

In case of an emergency after Weiler leaves at the end of June, Radigan, who is trained in first aid and CPR, will be in her office throughout the summer. If she isn't in her office, members of the security staff can help. They're also trained in first aid and CPR.

Radigan deals with safety at the college.

"The majority of safety issues I deal with are from the staff, only some are (from) students."

The hours of the health office are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the summer. Beginning in July, the office will be closed on Fridays.

Radigan said the Doon campus at Conestoga College is the only one that has a doctor and nurse for the students.

"The other campuses have staff that are trained in first aid and CPR."



Kim Radigan, health and safety co-ordinator, sits at her desk in the health office.

(Photo by Lesley Turnbull)

Muslim students pray undisturbed in quiet classrooms at college

By Anna Sajfert

Sometime on their lunch breaks, a group of Conestoga College students gather inside an empty room to pray in quietness.

Donna Runions, who works in the college's academic and administration services department, said Muslims pray a number of times a day and so the college wanted to allow them to freely exercise their faith on its grounds.

By allowing them to use the college's vacant rooms, the institution is allowing them to nurture their culture and tradition.

The only requests the students made was for quiet and private rooms where they would not be disturbed.

This has been going on for a couple of years, Runions said,

Read
Spoke

DSA gives grant for weight room equipment

By Andrea Jesson

Starting in June, Peter Horvath and many of his friends will find it easier and more convenient to use the weight room at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre.

The Doon Student Association has given the recreation centre a grant to purchase a universal weight station and Smith machine to add to the existing weight equipment.

"It's more convenient and there's more options," said Horvath, a machining student at Conestoga. "You're right there and you don't have to move to another bench."

Ian James, manager of athletics and recreation, said the last few months have been full of good news for the centre, with two new treadmills arriving just three months ago.

The new machines have a variety of options that people have been asking for including a pec deck to develop pectoral muscles and preacher curls to develop arm muscles.

"The new one is more biomechanical," said James. "Instead of all different machines that work all the different muscles, this one is combined."

At the moment, he said, some people are reluctant to use the free weights and tend to avoid using some of the equipment because (members), especially women, feel intimidated asking for help.

"This machine is good for both men and women and ideal for any student," he said.

The multi-purpose structure also has a safety device to avoid strain and prevent injury.

"This makes it easier when you're tired. You don't have to rely on a spotter."

Jenn Hussey, vice-president of operations at the DSA, said the recreation centre needs overall improvement, not just new weight equipment.

"Any weight equipment is better than what they have now," she said. "It's healthy for everyone."

Horvath said he is also pleased with the new additions.

"The old ones squeak when you

use them," he said.

The DSA has been deciding for the past two months how to divide approximately \$85,000 among services at the college, said Hussey.

The determining factor in how the money would be allotted was how many students would be affected by the grant.

"The goal was to make it as fair as possible on how the money was distributed," she said. "Especially because it is the students' money."

Hussey said other grants went to student services, the technology wing, the data video projector system in the Learning Resource Centre and for security cameras.

In some instances, Hussey said, she would favour money being allotted to the recreation centre and in other instances she would not.

"The recreation centre does have separate revenues from outside sources and it also charges a fee for students. The DSA isn't the (recreation centre's) only source of money."



Peter Horvath, 19, a machining student at Conestoga College, works out on the old equipment in the weight room at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre. (Photo By Andrea Jesson)

Conestoga college to host Ontario Skills competitions

By Wayne Collins

Conestoga College and Kitchener's Memorial Auditorium are currently preparing to host the Ontario Skills Competitions for the third consecutive year on May 31 and June 1.

According to Gail Smyth, executive director of Skills Canada Ontario, the coming days will be extremely busy for the competitions.

"We're expecting 1,500 competitors from every province and territory of Canada," said Smyth, who began her career at the event as a volunteer in 1990 and was promoted to her present position in 1997.

"Our mandate is to encourage young people to look at a career in skilled trades and technology as a first career choice," she said.

Skills Canada is a non-profit association of educators, employers, government and labour groups promoting trades and technology in Canada. Each province or territory has a regional office.

In 1999, Skills Canada Ontario plans to host several events in Kitchener, including: the 10th Ontario Technological Skills Competition on June 1, comprised of more than 700 competitors, selected through Ontario's regional competitions in 45 trade and technology contests; the fifth Canadian Skills Competition held from June 2-6, comprised of more than 600 provincial champions from across Canada in 40 trade and technology contests; and a Women in Skills: Careers with a Future conference on June 1 at Conestoga, for about 200 Grade 9 girls. The Team Canada Run-off to choose 40 students to represent Canada at the 35th World Skills Competition will be held in Montreal.

Conestoga is the host college for the 1999 Canadian Skills Competition and will also be the qualification site for the 1999 World Skills Competitions. These competitions, from June 1-4, will be held at several college sites, including Guelph.

campus and Niagara College.

Smyth said that although Skills Canada is a separate entity from Conestoga, the college and President John Tibbits certainly do a lot to assist with the competitions.

"Conestoga, and especially John Tibbits, are very strong supporters," said Smyth, adding that Tibbits also sits on the competition's board of directors.

She said the competitions receive help from the college's faculty, and use them as "tech chairs, judges and volunteers to help with the competitions."

"They're a real strong supporter," said Smyth. "It would be pretty hard to do without the support of Conestoga College."

As for the competition, Smyth said 15 per cent is theory-based and 85 per cent is hands on. Judges come mostly from industry and their numbers depend on each category.

"You could have three to 10," she said, "depending on the contest."

Smyth said that she expects about 20,000 people will visit the auditorium site, as this is the first time all three competitions will be held in one week.

"It's pretty big," she said.

Meanwhile, the World Skills Competitions qualifiers will be announced at the Centre in the Square on June 6, at a combined ceremony for Canadian Skills Competition and World Skills Competition medalists.

Anyone wishing further information can contact the Skills Canada-Ontario office at the Student Client Services Building, ext. 524.

New books

Conestoga holds book fair for faculty and publishers

By Adam Wilson

The Blue Room was buzzing with book talk as Conestoga College housed its annual book fair earlier this month.

Faculty as well as publishing companies attended the book fair, now in its 12th year. The event gives teachers a chance to look at some new textbooks or alternate reading material for their courses.

This year it featured 28 representatives from 19 different publishing companies. Jill Douglas, co-ordinator of the Learning Resource Centre,

said there weren't as many representatives as there had been in the past, but that is due to publishing companies amalgamating. Some of the biggest publishing companies

represented at the book fair, including McGraw-Hill, Nelson, Prentice Hall and Addison-Wesley.

The Learning Resource Centre organizes the annual event. Douglas said, adding it is held in the summer because it is more accessible to teachers.

"Faculty don't have as many classes in the summer, so they can go down and look at what the publishers have to offer."

Douglas said there was a good turnout of faculty at this year's event.

The publishing company representatives were also pleased with the turnout and said the book fair is very useful.

"(Faculty) can come on their own or in groups to talk about possible new textbooks and decide from there if they want to use them," said Shane Osborne, who represents McGraw-Hill.

He said his job is easy at the book fair:

"We're making sure the right people get the right books. It's good customer relations to come to a book fair like this."

Jennifer MacDougall, from Irwin Publishing, said the book fair gives publishing companies a chance to see instructors they normally wouldn't see during the year.

"It's a chance to get our face in front of faculty, and a chance for faculty to see our new books."

MacDougall, who described the turnout as average, said she would like to see more faculty at

the event.

Pamela Duprey, a representative from ITP Nelson, said she had been busy for most of the morning.

"The turnout has been good and steady."

Duprey said the book fair gives her and ITP Nelson a chance to expose their books to a good cross-section of faculty.

"It gives teachers access to the myriad of products available in the textbook marketplace."

Duprey added that she enjoys coming to book fairs, especially the one at Conestoga.

"Conestoga is a really great college."

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From Kitchener to Kingston . . . Law and security grad enjoys work in Jamaica

By Janet Wakutz

A 1991 law and security graduate is now managing security services for the American Embassy in Jamaica.

After graduation, William Lovell worked as a private investigator and at a youth custodial centre for one year before he and two other graduates decided to start a process serving business.

"The business ran with mild success for approximately two years when (my partners) decided they wanted to pursue other avenues," he said.

After researching the market, he changed the name of the company to First Class Actions and expanded the services the company offered.

Lovell always believed that if he offered his clients all the services they needed, then it was unlikely they would go anywhere else.

However, it was not all smooth sailing for the 22-year-old from Cambridge. "The biggest challenge I faced was my youth,"

said Lovell. "The nature of the work was such that trust was very important."

Lovell got assistance with advertising, networking and developing clientele from a retired sheriff and his business grew to the point where it was province-wide and included a network of 25 agents.

The services offered included investigations and bailiff and paralegal work.

In October 1998, after six years, Lovell and his wife, a Conestoga graduate of business administration accounting, received an offer on the company. They accepted.

Lovell discovered his current job on the Internet and was hired after several lengthy phone interviews. "I started my current job on Dec. 30, 1998," he said.

His employer, Wakenhut International, provides security for the American Embassy and most of the diplomat residences in Kingston, Jamaica. As deputy project manager, his responsibilities in

overseeing operations are varied. "I have investigated everything from absenteeism, vehicle accidents and weapons discharges," he said.

Has he had any scary experiences? "Hell yes. This is one violent city," said Lovell, recounting past shootings, stabbings, riots, roadblocks and automobile arson.

"I was driving home in my truck when someone came from behind a roadblock and shot two shots at the front of my vehicle," he said. "After getting over the shock of it I sped away."

Lovell said he loves Jamaica, despite the violence. He plays golf four days a week and tennis two or three times a week. "I generally do everything and go everywhere that I would at home — except shovel snow," he said.

However, the poverty bothers Lovell: "The amount of homelessness and lack of food is unbelievable." He said a locally

grown green pepper costs \$4 US per pound. Lovell said he wants to stay in Jamaica past his two-year contract. "In the short time I have lived here I have grown to love this country and the people. I could honestly see myself staying here for many, many years."

He hopes to earn two designations: certified protection professional and certified fraud examiner. He is currently studying for both.

Lovell credits the skills he learned in college for what he has accomplished so far in his career. He continues to

pursue areas of study on his own.

"When you are one of 937 people that have applied for a position and you get the job, second guessing your education is not the most prudent decision," said Lovell.

He said that although students may have decided what they want to become, they should keep an open mind to career choices and never stop learning.

"Push yourself to learn more and continue taking courses and improving yourself."

Despite the violence, Lovell loves Jamaica, where he plays golf four times a week, tennis two or three times and "generally do everything and go everywhere that I would at home - except shovel snow."

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Children from wait in line for autographs from Speedy Stewart Downs(left), and Johnny Five(right) of the Canadian Half-Pints basketball team, at the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre May 13. (Photo by Andrea Jesson)

Half-pints: little players, big hearts

By Andrea Jesson

When her son was born, Brenda McDonald never thought he would play on a basketball team. But, for the past two months 21-year-old Scott "Little Mac" McDonald has been touring with the Canadian half-pints basketball team, a group of self-proclaimed dwarfs and midgets that play to raise money for various charities.

"He's having a blast," said McDonald. "People bend over backwards for them (the team)."

On May 13 the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre prepared for 1,000 spectators to watch the second annual Canadian half-pints basketball charity game against the Cambridge firefighters. Cambridge Fire Chief Terry Allen said the money raised this year will go to the Learn-not-to-burn and Risk Watch programs. The programs, organized by the Cambridge fire department, focus on fire safety for children and the elderly.

Hank Miller, promoter of the Canadian Half-pints, hopes this year's charity games will raise



Porky Neal Joalin(left) and Speedy Stewart Downs of the Half-Pints. (Photo by Andrea Jesson)

more money than last year's total of \$3,700.

"The games are normally a sell-out," Miller said.

So far, the half-pints have played more than 3,000 games and only lost 11, according to Miller. The team plays 300 days a year and he promotes 10 to 15 of those shows.

Miller said the team is scheduled to tour across North America to promote their "Don't tease" and "Anything is possible" programs to elementary and high school students. The team goes into classrooms to send their message concerning the harmful effects of teasing, prejudice and racism. Along the way, Miller said, the team will raise money for hospitals, cystic fibrosis research and fire safety programs.

Although their message is serious, when it comes to basketball McDonald said the audience is in for a treat.

"It's a comedy show," she said. Miller said the team is made up of some good ball players and they make it a lot of fun.

Ian James, manager of athletics and recreation, said hosting the charity games at the recreation centre is mutually beneficial for the team and the centre.

"We want to make sure the experience is what they want," he said.

Like other half-pint fans, James finds the charity games a fun experience.

"They (the half-pints) are funny as anything and really exciting."

Journalism program will change this fall

By Angela Clayfield

The first round of students has been chosen and on May 15 they were told they will become part of Conestoga College history.

The 30 students will be the first group to enter the refurbished journalism-print and broadcast program, a three-year program starting in September that will improve graduates' chances of getting a job, said program co-ordinator Sharon Dietz.

The new program, which has yet to be approved by the Ministry of Education, will give the students a slight advantage over former journalism graduates, she said, by teaching them to write and edit for radio and television news, in addition to the newspaper and magazine writing currently being taught. Some training in technical areas of broadcasting will also be offered.

According to Dietz, the new program will not compete with the current broadcasting-radio and television (BRT) program because its curriculum will emphasize news writing with a little bit of technical training while the BRT program consists of about 80 per cent technical training and a little bit of news writing.

"It's completely different types of jobs," Dietz said. "It's the difference between being a nurse and being a doctor."

Significant changes have been made to the course content of the new journalism program, including combining some courses and

omitting others.

Grammar is gone, two photography courses have been combined into one and graphics has been combined with desktop publishing. Public relations and advertising, previously offered as one course, may also be out, but new courses have taken their place. Students will have the chance to learn how to write for an online publication and to learn Web design.

Other courses being offered in the revamped program include law and ethics, careers in journalism and fundamentals of reporting which will teach students how to find stories and gather information before they learn how to write news stories.

Dietz said there would also be an opportunity for journalism students to work at the college's proposed FM radio station. Students' time will be divided between writing for Spoke and working at the radio station.

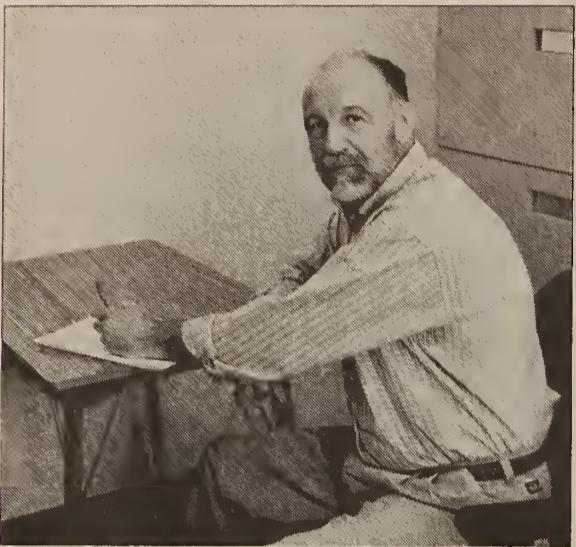
The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates to function as reporters in both print and broadcast Dietz said.

"In the past we have had students who have left the program with only print training and found jobs in radio and television," said Dietz. "While it was fairly simple to take the skills they had learned in a print-journalism program and transfer them to a broadcast situation, if they had had broadcast experience in the program they would have been that much better off."

It's the difference between being a nurse and being a doctor."

**Journalism co-ordinator
Sharon Dietz**

College plays vital role in assisting disabled



Barry Cull, who teaches Strategies for Student Success, joined the special needs department only a year ago, but already plays a vital role in assisting students with learning disabilities.

(Photo by Anna Sajfert)

By Anna Sajfert

There are an estimated 800,000 people with learning disabilities in Ontario according to the Learning Disabilities Association.

Three hundred students with a specific learning disability (SLD) are at Conestoga's Doon campus, making up approximately 10 per cent of the college's population.

In 1998, the provincial government awarded a \$3-million fund to Conestoga College to run a four-year pilot project called the Learning Opportunity Project.

Conestoga was one of eight universities, colleges and consortiums to run the new specialized needs courses in Ontario.

Among the project's main navigators are Rick Casey, a special needs counsellor who also recruits SLD students from high school to college, Lynn Gresham, project assistant, Barry Cull, who teaches Strategies for Student Success, and Charlie Matjanec, employment advisor.

"There is strong faculty support (in assisting SLD students)," said Barry Cull in a May 13 interview.

Special Needs courses

He currently teaches a specialized course, Strategies for Student Success, during the day and evening to a total of 300 special needs students. The three-hour course instructs students on how to become successful and independent learners.

The course, which is now in its third semester, is restricted to English as a Second Language (ESL) students as well as students with mental, physical and emotional disabilities.

"The course I teach is specifically for the SLD students," Cull said while attempting to come up with the correct terminology for this group of students.

"It's generally cognitive impairment," he said while pointing to the definition on a learning disabilities fact sheet.

Cull, who has been with the college for almost a year, said common manifestations of learning disabilities include visual, auditory, motor, organizational and conceptual problems.

He said his biggest project challenge lies not in surviving the financial norms, but "getting around the differences."

And students' differences in disabilities are plentiful. Cull explained they range

from dyslexia to poor organizational skills.

However, the diversity does not give any leeway to lazy students, Cull said.

"I'm not an advocate for students who don't want to do the work."

The teacher, who previously worked at the Children's Assessment and Training Centre in Burlington, said "the disability is not the person nor is the person the disability, and so the faculty has to be receptive to what these students have to offer."

He added the way to expressing receptivity is to obey the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"We never know who's coming through the door. It may be the next Albert Einstein," he said, adding Einstein suffered from dyslexia.

Cull, who earned a degree in Child Development Psychology at the University of Waterloo, said he mostly appreciates the fact he can have some influence on the lives of his students.

His colleague and co-worker, Charlie Matjanec, teaches Employment Issues for the Disabled.

Work Opportunities

The course prepares the disabled students for work.

"I assess them for employment so they can do their jobs," he said.

While Matjanec is overall impressed with the quality of his students, he said the real challenge is trying to persuade a class of 20 students to take the special needs courses.

"Why should I take this course?" they'd ask.

His course teaches the students to understand themselves and acknowledge their skills and challenges.

Although co-op is not yet offered in the program, the students learn other valuable employment issues, Matjanec said.

Students could get a range of opportunities in the workforce in the end; from an entry-level position to managerial job.

"Yes, you can have a disability, but you're being hired because you have the skills and the ability to perform," he said while pointing to a National Post article about Arthur Pidgeon, president of MTI Telephone Communications in Toronto, who succeeded in the telecommunication services business despite struggles with dyslexia.

"The only limitation is the person's lack of imagination," he said.

Certain choices, he said, have been forced upon the SLD students, forcing them to feel they have to prove something to society.



Ellen Menage, left, president of DSA, and Jenn Hussey, vice president of operations, review events for the new school year.

(Photo by Michelle Lehmann)

No vacation for DSA, says president

By Michelle Lehmann

Although the Doon Student Association has no activities scheduled for the summer months, it does not mean they are relaxing in the sun. They are busy during the summer planning all the events for the fall and winter semesters.

The DSA exists for the students. Their motto is students working for students, said Ellen Menage, president of the DSA.

"Those of us on the executive and of course, our board of directors, our class reps and all of our volunteers, are putting in the extra effort to ensure the students have a good time, are well informed of the activities happening throughout the year and have a voice to tell them about things within the DSA and around the college," said Menage. "Basically, the DSA is a voice for the students but the DSA is also open to any ideas from the students."

She said the DSA executives also attend many conferences during the summer where they collaborate with other student leaders to create exciting activities for the school year.

"I've been to three conferences in the last three weeks," said Menage.

Jenn Hussey, vice-president of operations, and Steve Coleman, vice-president of student affairs, accompanied Menage to the Ontario Transitional Conference held at Ryerson University. The sessions covered practical skills for effective leadership, motivation techniques and teamwork.

The sessions covered practical skills for effective leadership, motivation techniques and teamwork. The conference also offered ideas for running an effective campaign for awareness weeks and suggested ways to get students more involved.

"It was a great experience because we were able to work together with other student executives across the province," said Menage. "We found out the nifty things they do to get students involved and learned about their promotional ideas."

Rape: terminology changes, facts remain same

By Carly Benjamin

The term rape is no longer used in Canadian criminal law but has been renamed sexual assault and is a criminal offence under the federal Criminal Code of Canada. The Criminal Code is continually being amended by the federal Canadian Parliament, as well as interpreted by court cases.

Rape under-reported

According to the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, the incidence of acquaintance rape and subsequent under-reporting is especially prevalent on college campuses. The statistics reveal one in seven college women will be raped before they graduate and 90 per cent will know their attacker.

A study performed by the committee found one out of 12 college men admitted they had committed acts that meet the legal definition of sexual assault, but only one per cent of those men considered the behaviours criminal in nature.

The group conducted another study of college rape victims that revealed 10.6 per cent were raped by strangers, 24.9 per cent by casual dates, 30 per cent by steady dates and 8.9 per cent by family members.

Barb Kraler, of student services, said counsellors at the college

deal with rape victims of crimes committed at Conestoga. However, she wouldn't provide any further details to protect the privacy of the individuals.

"Rape is under-reported," she said. "So I can't judge how often rape actually occurs on campus."

She said date rape has the lowest reporting rate of all assaults due to the shame that accompanies it.

"They question if it's really considered a rape," Kraler said. Counsellors are always available to speak to both men and women, confidentially about rape.

"Students should go out in groups when they are first getting to know someone and should be clear about what they want from each other," she said.

A lack of communication can cause a lack of understanding between the individuals involved and a rape may result, she said.

"A woman may wish to have some sexual contact but not engage in intercourse, if there isn't clear communication, the man may assume she wants to have sex."

Kraler said if a man is unsure if a woman wishes to participate in sexual intercourse then he should stop.

"The overuse of alcohol and drugs can also play a role in the decision-making process."

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Students have voting options June 3

By John Oberholtzer

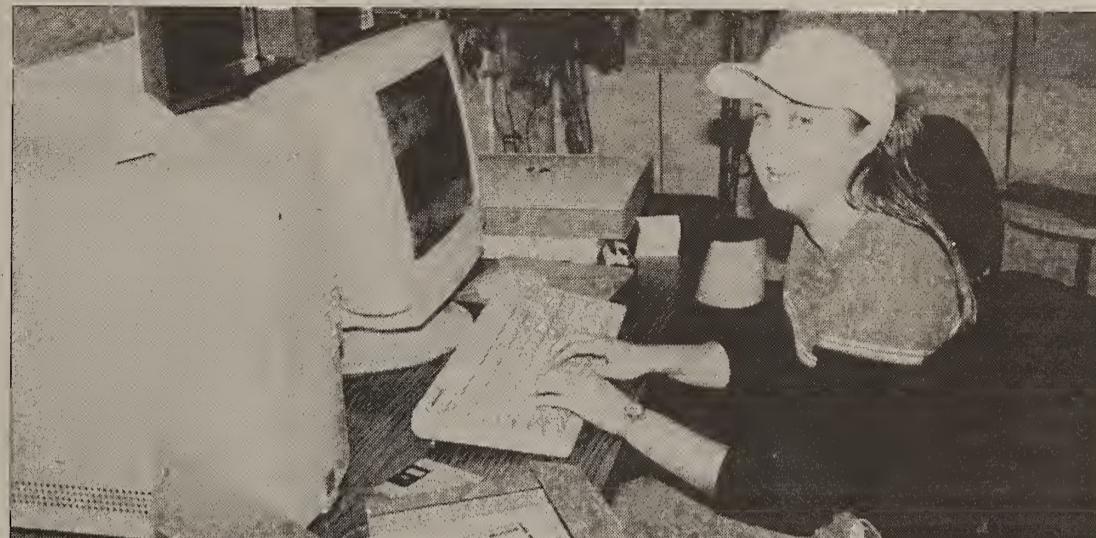
Students of Conestoga College who are currently living away from home have several options when it comes to voting in the June 3 Ontario provincial election.

A certificate to vote can be obtained from the electoral office of the riding where the student resides for the summer, said the returning officer for Kitchener Centre.

Harold Hammond said students should bring some form of identification that says who they are and where they live, and they will be given a certificate which can be used at an advance poll or on the regular voting day.

Students have two other options, according to a notice prepared by the electoral office of the Kitchener-Waterloo riding and forwarded by Hammond.

First, they can return to their home riding to vote if they consider that to be their permanent residence, the notice says. Students who are previously registered in



DSA President Ellen Menage recently attended a conference of the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association where the permanent voter's list was a topic of discussion.

(Photo by John Oberholtzer)

their home riding will receive a notice of registration card in the mail which will confirm their electoral district and polling station.

Second, they can have someone in their home riding vote for them by proxy. The notice says the

application for proxy can be picked up at any electoral office, but the actual proxy must be obtained at the student's home riding by the person voting on their behalf.

This is the first provincial election since the establishment

of the permanent voters' list, said Conestoga College political science instructor Michael Dale.

"This is closer to the American system," said Dale. "It puts more onus on the voter."

Elections Ontario has been run-

ning advertisements in daily newspapers, advising voters that there are a limited number of revising agents canvassing areas where some change in population occurs, so anyone who does not receive a notification card by May 24 should contact their local returning office.

The returning officer for the Kitchener-Waterloo riding said it's important to protect the rights of every citizen of Ontario.

"The problem is with homeless people," said Harry McCosh. "The bottom line is we're trying not to disenfranchise anyone."

The president of the Doon Student Association said she will be voting in her home riding.

Ellen Menage also said she doesn't believe the creation of the permanent voters' list is something that will keep students who are away from home from voting.

"I think the students that are going to make themselves aware of the issues and want to have a say in the voting are going to follow the process and find a way to be able to vote," she said.

Paper recycled at college

Doon campus uses 2 tonnes of paper weekly

By Michelle Lehmann

A popular slogan for the '90s is to reduce, reuse and recycle. A decade ago they were empty, meaningless words, but environmentalists have continued to try to convince people these simple words really do have a huge impact on the earth.

"Recycling is a routine that Conestoga College practises regularly," said Dick Deadman, manager of housekeeping services.

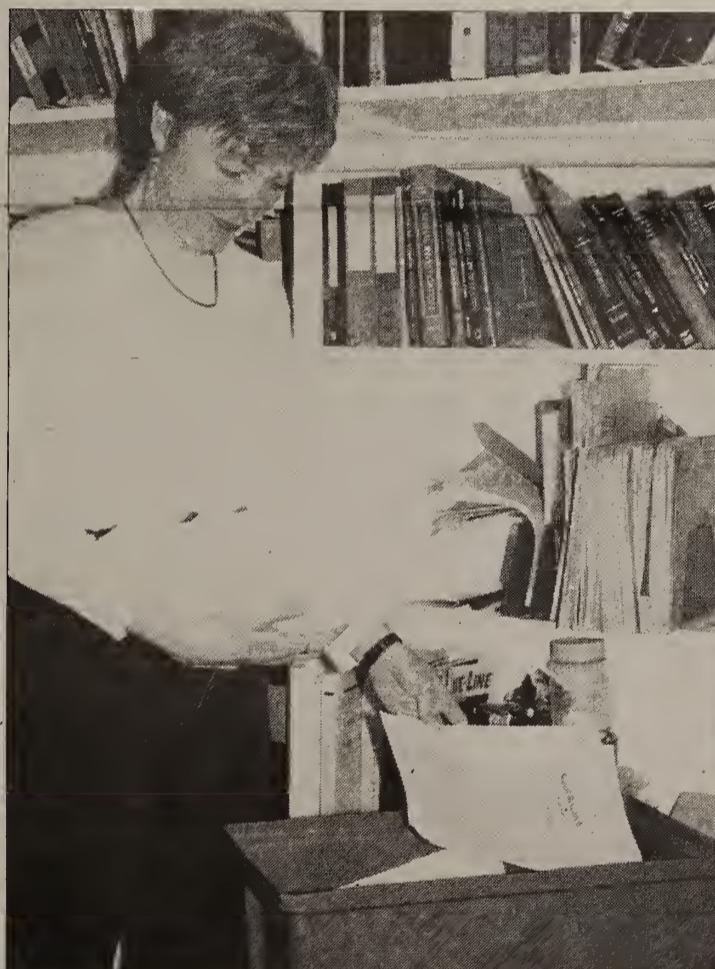
The school realizes that recycling and reducing waste are important for the environment and that such acts allow the natural resources to be used and reused wisely, he said.

The college began a recycling program in 1992, said Deadman.

The print shop, which does the printing for all of Conestoga College, is an integral part of the school. Acting as the central binding and printing specialist for all of the satellite campuses, means the print shop generates a large amount of waste.

The college uses approximately two tonnes of paper per week at the Doon campus and about seven million sheets of paper go through the machines in the print shop each year, said material services supervisor Vince Alviano.

"On a busy week we can fill a bin in a couple of days," he said. "Even wrappers, NCR carbon, coloured paper and newsprint are



Carolyn Harrison, law and security faculty member, uses the blue recycling bin to cut down the amount of waste generated at the college.

(Photo by Michelle Lehmann)

recycled."

Although the school follows a complete recycling ritual, the print shop does not use recycled paper to print their exams, flyers, booklets or award banquet programs.

"It's more expensive to buy," said Alviano. "We have a set blanket order with the paper company."

Every Wednesday, Capital Environmental is responsible for the collection of all recyclables from the college. The recycling company empties the 18 blue bins that housekeeping services stores

in the warehouse throughout the week, said Deadman.

The blue recycling bins can be spotted on any floor in the halls and classrooms around the college. And students and faculty do their part for the environment by using the recycling bins for newspaper, coated paper, heavy coloured stock and fine paper, Deadman said.

"Besides garbage, the only collected material not recycled is cardboard," said Deadman. "Instead, the cardboard is taken to the cardboard compactor and crushed."

College courses offered over Internet

By Adam Wilson

In an age where computers are taking over, there is now a new way to take college courses through the Internet. Conestoga College has been offering courses that are available through the Internet that you can complete at home with the help of your PC for three years.

Andy Clow, with distance education, says there is a growing demand for these new courses.

"A demand starts to surface for these kinds of courses and it gives us an opportunity to offer our courses to a broader range of people," he said.

Clow's duties

Clow is primarily in charge of two categories of the Internet courses: computing courses, which are part-time courses offered through continuing education, and Contact South courses.

Contact South is a consortium of 14 colleges in southern Ontario which offer Internet courses through each college. Clow said when colleges join the consortium, they must agree that the course will be a credit in their colleges.

"If a student is taking a course through the World Wide Web at Algonquin College, but is enrolled (at Conestoga), then we must recognize it as a credit."

Course advantages

Clow said this is an advantage to students in a number of ways. If Conestoga isn't offering a course they need to graduate, they can take it through Contact South at another college and still get their diploma.

Travel and work schedules are other reasons why these courses are an advantage

to students.

Offered programs

Some of the programs offered through the Internet at Conestoga College are accounting, compensation management, industrial relations, introduction to microeconomics and occupational health and safety. Additional courses offered through other colleges can be accessed at Contact South's Web site, www.contact-south.org. All of these courses can be taken year round.

Clow said currently there are no new courses being offered but there are some being developed.

"We've got two that are ready to go," said Clow. "But I don't know whether or not they will be offered this year."

The way the Internet courses work is students get their assignments on the World Wide Web, do the work, and then email their answers to the teacher for marking.

Clow said there are some problems with this because some students have a tendency to put an assignment off for a week, then, when the weeks start adding up, deadlines aren't met.

Since e-mail plays such a large part in the Internet courses, Contact South put chat rooms on their Web site. In each chat room there is a teacher from each course who is there to answer questions students might have and to help them with problems.

Contact South courses run from 10 to 16 weeks, depending on the course.

Although the courses are offered over the Internet, students are required to come to the college for the final exam at the end of their study period.

Choking Victim's release is best punk album of '99

By Brian Gall

Finally, a fresh punk face with some talent, honesty and originality.

It is going to be hard for any new punk band to put out a better album than Choking Victim's No Gods/No Managers, released in April on Hellcat Records.

If their first album is a sign of the band's potential, even these heavy, ska-inspired masterminds will have a hard time repeating such an awesome record.

This album borders on perfection for lovers of punk rock. The singing of all four members creates an overwhelming mix of fast-paced stompers and funky boppers that make the listener want to dance in front of them at a live show.

If they are comparable to anyone it would be to Operation Ivy and

Against All Authority.

Though No Gods/No Managers is their first full-length album, the Victims have also released three seven-inch records and appeared on a few compilations.

Infested was one of the best tunes on Hellcat's Give 'Em The Boot, which was released in 1997 and included songs by Rancid, VooDoo Glow Skulls, Dropkick Murphy's and Stubborn All-Stars, among others.

If they are comparable to anyone it would be to Operation Ivy and Against All Authority.

From New York City, home of

Album review

many old punk bands, the band said today's New York scene is weak because the best bands do not get any recognition. In an interview with Bad Ass Nation magazine (BAN), of Pennsylvania, they comment on fashion groups like The Casualties, who are too worried about looking like punks.

"It seems like they kick people out if they aren't fashionable enough. But Astroland... The Dregs, those are some good bands that probably no one's ever heard of," said Scott Stergin, one of the two guitarist/singers.

Choking Victim's musicianship and lyrical talent deserves to be recognized and it should only take time for their name to be known.

Intelligent and often sarcastic lyrics deal with subjects such as suicide, war and television.

Five hundred Channels starts the album off with a TV-bashing, true story about boob-tube lovers. "Locked into re-runs, your memories repeating. And all your ideals seem so self-defeating. For you and yours, the Pepsi generation. When you're discontent you change the TV station."

In the seventh of 12 tracks, Money, cash is a murderer and having to depend on it is infuriating. "I am sick and tired and my money's always spent. And though their jobs are killing me, their money pays the rent. The fuel of world-hate, although it's just a seed. But when it grows and flowers it becomes the world's greed."

War Story, a thunderous song about military life, declines to

give any credit or praise to the tales of soldiers. "You played right into Uncle Sam's hands. Where is the glory in complying with demands? You were used to defend world domination. Where is the honour in being an abomination?"

Disappointed with New York and America in general, Choking Victim hopes to travel in order to spread the word about the band. "My personal hope is that we'll get to Australia or Japan because they've been buying records lately," Stergin told BAN.

In the thank-you list of No Gods/No Managers, the band's honesty and disgust for the Big Apple becomes most apparent.

"Choking Victim would like to give special thanks to no one! Especially the New York City clubs that never did a damn thing for us."

Take the challenge

Tea Party joins Pepsi Taste Tour

By Carly Benjamin

The Tea Party, one of Canada's most imaginative rock bands, is scheduled to release TRIP-TYCH, their latest CD on June 8.

The Tea Party will be launching the album via the Pepsi Taste Tour which will see them give contest winners a sneak preview of TRIP-TYCH, as they perform live at the Turret, a small club in Kitchener. The band will visit Burlington, Ottawa, London, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Toronto from mid-May to early June, to give fans a taste of their latest work. A coast-to-coast Canadian tour will commence in early November.

The Windsor, Ont. natives are led by the guitar wizardry of Jeff Martin, and feature the rhythm section of Jeff Burrows on drums and Stuart Chatwood on bass and keyboards.

With a sound that mixes '60s

psychedelic with '90s hard rock and increasingly Eastern influences, The Tea Party has gathered together a large and loyal audience.

"There's a lot more world music influence in electronic music than in rock," explains Chatwood, who has been interested in techno and electronic music since its birth in Windsor's neighbouring Detroit. "Electronic music for us was one of the last frontiers, in a rock context," he said.

Since soaking up the techno sound of Detroit when he was a teenager, he has become well versed in electronic music.

Chatwood, a guitarist before The Tea Party formed in 1990, has made the transition easily to bass and picked up a Kurzeil K2000 a few years ago, on which he taught himself to play.

He said the art form the group indulges in is taken seriously and they respect the role model posi-

tion that accompanies the public spotlight.

"It's not taken lightly," he said about the causes the group stands behind. "We're choosy but we're effective."

In March 1998, The Tea Party put out a limited edition four track sampler featuring their Top 5 song, "Release", and donated all the profits, \$16,000, to the White Ribbon Campaign, a registered charity which is the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women.

"The song was inspired by a CNN report about the status of women's rights and the practice of genitalia mutilation in some Middle Eastern countries," Chatwood said. "It's an apology from the spirit of the male to the spirit of the woman."

1998 also provided the trio with six acknowledgements for the Much Music Video Awards. Since 1994, The Tea Party has received



(Photo credit: Margaret Malin)

22 award nominations. In 1995, the band received a People's Choice Award for favourite music video for "The Bazaar" to go alongside 1994's two People's Choice Awards for "The River".

"I appreciate the recognition," Chatwood said. "But I don't think anybody has the authority to judge art."

The career path of The Tea Party

has not been a long road but along the way problems have nearly caused a break-up of the friends from high school.

"Yes it's true, but not because of problems among the group members," he said. "The resistance of the industry and the politics that accompany music management nearly caused us to suffocate and drown."

Folks take painting lessons at night school class

By John Oberholtzer

If the students in Diana Morrison's folk art painting class ever want a career change, they could probably find work diffusing bombs.

Through delicate techniques and attention to minute detail, students in Morrison's class create elegant and intricate works of art. Patience and a steady hand aren't prerequisites for this course, but for those who gulp down 12 cups of coffee per day, finger painting might be a better way to indulge one's artistic aspirations.

Folk art painting consists of eight three-hour classes on Thursday nights as part of the continuing education program at Conestoga College. As described in the college's calendar of study, folk art painting is the painting of designs and themes on metal and wooden containers, furniture and

other trinkets using patterns and freehand techniques.

Morrison demonstrates various techniques where the slight turn of the wrist or pressure applied to the brush can create flower designs of various shapes and textures.

Unlike other types of painting, folk art painting can be described as 90 per cent technique and 10 per cent talent, she said.

"Most people would love to paint a landscape or a portrait, but if you don't have the talent then you can't do it right," Morrison said. "With folk art, if you learn the techniques, learn how to load the brush and do the stroke work, you can paint anything in the folk art area."

There are hundreds of folk art books by authors who publish material that is made specifically for reproduction, she said.

The "s" stroke and the comma

stroke are just two of the thousands of possible brush strokes, she said, and they're part of tole painting, which is the combining of strokes to create something traditional.

Morrison explained the historical significance of traditional folk art: "Some of the stroke work was used during the time of religious persecution in Europe where they used it to decorate their window boxes to tell people what order they were or what group they belonged to."

Morrison first became interested in folk art 12 years ago when she lived in Maine. She has taught at Conestoga College for six years, but still takes courses herself including an upcoming one offered by Maureen McNaughton, a Canadian painter who is internationally famous in the folk art painting circle.

"She's a master," she said of



Tracy Mai and Penny Sutcliffe work on their projects in a folk art painting class May 13.

(Photo by John Oberholtzer)

McNaughton. "I'll bring one of her paintings in, it looks just like a computer image. It's so perfect."

As the course winds down, Morrison allows the class mem-

bers to do whatever they want as a final project.

"That way, most people continue to paint after the course is over," she said.